



2600 Bull Street
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December 7, 1998

MEMORANDUM

TO: Administrators of Habilitation Centers for the Mentally Retarded or Persons with Related Conditions (16 beds or more)

FROM: Jerry L. Paul, Director
Health Licensing Section *Jerry L. Paul*

SUBJECT: Provider-Wide Exception to a Standard of Regulation 61-13

Regulation 61-13, Standards for Licensing Habilitation Centers for the Mentally Retarded or Persons with Related Conditions, Section W(6) states that in large facilities (16 or more beds), "A signal system shall be provided for each client. The system shall consist of: (a) A call button for each bed, bathroom (reachable from the shower/tub and toilet), toilet room used by clients, and treatment/examining room; (b) A light over each client room door visible from the corridor; (c) A control panel at the control station showing room or bed number; (d) Indicators in utility rooms treatment/examination rooms, medication room, staff lounges, and floor kitchens; (e) Indicators and control panels shall employ an audible and visual signal."

Since these facilities generally have a high staff/resident ratio, and the residents are essentially physically healthy, there is less need for a call system. Therefore, in the interest of establishing reasonable standards which do not compromise the health, safety, and well-being of residents receiving care in habilitation centers with 16 or more beds, these facilities will be required to meet the standard outlined in their licensing regulation, R61-13, Section W(6) or, as an alternative may choose not to install a call system.

The standard in the regulation indicated above will be enforced during inspections should a facility be utilizing a call system, as required by the regulation. This exception applies only to the type of facility named above and relates solely to South Carolina licensing standards. Any adverse condition(s) that may be related to this exception may result in revocation of the exception by the Department.

If there are any questions, please call Dennis Gibbs at (803) 737-7370.

JLP/JML

cc: Alice Truluck, Commissioner's Office
Karen Price, Certification Branch
Brad Beasley, SCDDSN